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Comment From Those In Area

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Washington — Rochester area congressmen differ in their assessment of the tactics used by the Central Intelligence Agency, especially in connection with the subsidization of the National Student Association (NSA).

Rep. Samuel S. Stratton, D-Amsterdam, opposes an investigation of CIA activities but Rep. Frank Horton, R-Rochester, and Barber Conable, R-Batavia, say they think the CIA owes Congress an explanation of the NSA incident.

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STRATTON SAID he is getting "a little bit tired" of people who "latch onto every possible occasion to demand a public investigation of the operations of the CIA." He said it is time to be realistic about the Cold War struggle.

"American office holders ought to know by now that we live in a very dangerous and even conspiratorial world," the Amsterdam Democrat said. "For responsible American legislators to insist that America's attitude always be the attitude of Pollyanna in a world all too often peopled by cutthroats and dirty players, would be a perfect formula for failure and defeat."

CONABLE SAID: "I think maybe the State Department ought to subsidize the students' travel abroad instead of the CIA, and I think it's foolish to get involved in this cloak and dagger stuff when the situation doesn't have anything to do with intelligence."

The investigation plans are "perfectly proper," Conable said, but Congress shouldn't be prying into all of the CIA's work from now on."

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HORTON SAID it would be too bad if the NSA incident led to an investigation that might damage the standing" of the CIA, which he said is performing a vital role in protecting the country.

"You're getting into a very delicate area of national security when you begin investigating the CIA," Horton said. "The CIA's not all bad, and while this incident is a great cause for alarm, and the problem ought to be aired, we don't want to throw the baby out with the bath water."